

**REMARKS**

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 2-6, 8, 10-13 and 62 have been amended. Claims 1, 7, 9, 14-61 and 63-66 are cancelled without prejudice to pursuing those or similar claims in a continuation application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

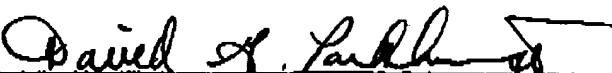
Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted with the undersigned on May 20, 2005, in which the Examiner agreed that Claim 62 would be allowable if amended to include the structure of "a plurality of asperities including protrusions and indentations formed on the inner surface of the body portion," and "the friction increasing coating covering the plurality of asperities on said selected area." The Examiner also agreed that dependent claims could be appended to amended Claim 62.

In the telephone interview, the previously cited Palmaz et al. reference was discussed, and the Examiner indicated that amended Claim 62, as shown above, will be patentable over Palmaz et al. Other independent claims, including Claims 57 and 58, were discussed. The Examiner indicated, however, that amending these claims as proposed would raise issues requiring further consideration and/or searching. Accordingly, in order to speed up the issuance of the allowed claims, Claim 62 has been amended as discussed, Claims 2-6, 8 and 10 have been amended to depend from Claim 62, and the remaining claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notification of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By:   
David G. Parkhurst  
Reg. No. 29,422

DGP/rvw

Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Telephone: (310) 824-5555  
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201

90613.1